

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SS-25

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P R 121209 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1369
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JSC PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USSAG

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 3986

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MASS, MARR, TH, VS, CB, LA, VN
SUBJECT: CINCPAC MEETING WITH RTG LEADERS

CINCPAC PASS POLAD

1. SUMMARY. IN ONE HOUR MEETING WITH CINCPAC, MARSHAL THANOM AND
OTHER THAI LEADERS REITERATED PREVIOUS EXPRESIONS OF ACUTE
DISAPPOINT

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MENT WITH DECLINING ASSISTANCE LEVELS. THANOM SAID INADEQUATE MIL-
ITARY AID AT A TIME WHEN THAILAND IS MORE OF A TARGET AND IS
TAKING GREATER RISKS WEAKENS THAI DEFENSES DOUBLY. HE
MADE POINT THAT IN DISCUSSIONS IN VIENTIANE ABOUT
REPATRIATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND,
NVN SIDE HAD STATED THAT US WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND IS A
CONDITION FOR AGREEMENT. ADM. GALYER RESPONDED THAT NVN
OBJECTIVE OF REMOVING US FORCES FROM THAILAND NOT SURPRISING
SINCE THESE FORCES CONSTITUTE MAIN BARRIER TO NVN AMBITIOUS;
HE THEN OUTLINED US BUDGETARY SITUATION, POINTING OUT THAT
NOT ONLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT ALSO US SERVICES BUDGETS CUT.
WITH GENERAL PRAPHAT COMMENTING ON DIFFICULTIES RTG
ENCOUNTERING BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DISSENT FROM ITS POLICY,
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THANOM AGAIN REFERRED TO RISKS THAILAND IS TAKING AND WONDERED WHETHER DECLINING AID WOULD BE ADEQUATE IN RELATION TO THESE RISKS. HE ADDED THAT IF US AID BECOMES LESS AND LESS HE WILL STOP ASKING FOR IT; HE HAS MADE HIS POSITION CLEAR, RELUCTANTLY, AND WILL NOT RAISE MATTER AGAIN. CINCPAC STRESSED THAT WE MUST BOTH LOOK AT THIS MATTER IN TERMS OF A PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMON SECURITY OBJECTIVES BUT THAT WE UNDERSTAND SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND WOULD FULLY REPORT RTG CONCERNS.

2. OTHER SUBJECTS CONVERGED WERE (A) THANOM' S CONCERN ABOUT A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO DR. KISSINGER THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT COMMUNIST CONTROL OVER SOUTH VIETNAM IF EXTENDED BY PEACEFUL MEANS; CINCPAC AND AMBASSADOR CLARIFIED THIS IN TERMS OF CLASSIC US POSITION THAT WE ACCEPT PEACEFUL CHANGE AND WOULD RESPECT OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS. (B) CONCERN OVER SEATO IN LIGHT OF NEW AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND POLICY; CINCPAC REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT TREATY ITSELF STANDS AND IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE ON OTHER HAND, VISIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SUCH CHANGES AS INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CI ARE MATTERS THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED. (C) SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, WHICH EVIDENTLY WORRIES THAI LEADERS. THANOM CITED REPORT FROM PHNOM PENH THAT SOME AMERICANS WERE SUPPORTING SIRIK MATAK AGAINST LON NOL AND COUNDED AGAINST SUCH A POLICY IN VIEW OF SIRIK MATAK' S LACK OF POPULAR SUPPORT. CINCPAC AND AMBASSADOR CLARIFIED THAT IT WAS OUR OBJECTIVE, IDENTICAL WITH RTG' S VIEW, THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT BY BROADENING ITS BASE OF POPULAR SUPPORT AND ACHIEVING GREATER NATIONAL UNITY; AMBASSADOR STRESSED HE KNOWS OF NO ONE ON US SIDE WHO WAS SUPPORTING SIRIK MATAK AGAINST LON NOL. END SUMMARY.

3. CINCPAC MET WITH MARSHAL THANOM MARCH 8. PRIMIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PRIMIN GENERAL PRAPHAT; ACM DAWEE, C/ S SUPR. CMD. ACM BOOCYOO, CINC RTAF; ADM. THAWIN, CINC, RTN; LGEN SAWAENG, MINISTER ATTACHED TO OFFICE OF PRIMIN; BGEN. CHARCTHAI, DEP. FONMIN; GEN. SURAKIJ, C/ S RTA; AND THREE MFA NOTE TAKERS. ADM GAYLER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR UNGER; COMUSMCATHAI, MGEN. EVANS; POLAD MR. ARMSTRONG; J-3 MGEN. SPANJER; J-2 BGEN TIGHE AND EMBASSY POMIL COUNSELOR. MEETING LASTED ONE HOUR.

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MARSHAL DAWEE INTERPRETED.

4. MARSHALL THANOM STARTING BY EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS ABOUT SITUATION IN VIETNAM, ESPECIALLY DIFFICULTY OF PREVENTING BREACHES OF PARIS AGREEMENTS BY NVN. HE REFERRED TO STATEMENT BY DR. KISSINGER THAT IF COMMUNISTS MANAGED TO EXTEND THEIR CONTROL OVER SOUTH VIETNAM BY PEACEFUL MEANS WE WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. THANOM SAID THIS STATEMENT HAD BOOSTED ENEMY MORALE AND ADVERSELY AFFECTED THAT OF OUR FRIENDS. CINCPAC STATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE ANY THREAT OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN SOUTH BY PEACEFUL MEANS. NVN WILL PROBABLY TRY POLITICAL TRACK TOGETHER WITH LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE, BUT ARE KEEPING OPEN THEIR MILITARY OPTION. US AIR PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DETER NVN FROM REVERTING TO MAIN FORCE MILITARY ACTION. RE KISSINGER STATEMENT, CINCPAC AND AMBASSADOR CLARIFIED THAT THIS REFLECTED CLASSICAL US POSITION RE PEACEFUL CHANGE AND RESPECT FOR OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS.

5. THANOM NEXT REFERRED TO VOICE OF PUBLIC OPINION CRITICIZING US PRESENCE IN THAILAND, ESPECIALLY RECENT STATEMENT BY PRIMIN WHITLAM THAT IF AMERICANS REMAIN IN THAILAND IT WILL BECOME ANOTHER VIETNAM. THANOM WONDERED ABOUT FUTURE OF SEATO IN CONTEXT OF NEW POLICY BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. POINTING OUT THAT AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY HAD BEEN OUT OF OFFICE FOR 23 YEARS AND HAS A STRONG LEFT WING, ADM. GAYLER REFERRED TO WHITLAM'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL NECESSITIES FOR THIS SORT OF STATEMENT; HE STRESSED THAT PRIMIN KIR, AN INDEPENDENT MAN, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ADOPT SAME POLICY. RE SEATO, CINCPAC SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT OUR OWN POSITION WHICH IS THAT THE TREATY ITSELF STANDS AND IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE; ON OTHER HAND, VISIBILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND SUCH CHANGES AS INCREASED EMPHASIS ON CI ARE THINGS THAT CAN BE TALKED ABOUT. MARSHAL THANOM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHITLAM INTENDED PROPOSE SOME CHANGES AT NEXT SEATO MEETING; CINCPAC SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THESE MIGHT BE.

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ACTION SS-14

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P R 121209 Z MAR 73

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USSAG

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E X D I S

6. THANOM NEXT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT WORSENING SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. CINCPAC OUTLINED OUR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SITUATION WAS SERIOUS AND ENEMY NOW MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN BEFORE. CINCPAC STRESSED THAT THROUGH STRONG AIR SUPPORT AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SHORE UP KHMER FORCES. THANOM SAID THAT THOUGH VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW HAD TOLD HIM THAT WE SUPPORTING LON NOL GOVERNMENT, RUMORS HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING SIRIK MATAK. HE CAUTIONED THAT THIS WOULD BE BAD POLICY SINCE SIRIK MATAK NOT POPULAR. THANOM SAID HE HAD CONVEYED TO LON NOL STRONG SUPPORT AND WAS ADVISING SIRIK MATAK ANDIN TAN AND OTHERS TO JOIN HIM HOWEVER, SIRIK MATAK HAD TAKEN A POSITION AGAINST LON NOL; THANOM SURMISED THAT THIS MAY BE BECAUSE US SUPPORT LED SIRIK MATAK TO BELIEVE THAT HE COULD OPPOSE LON NOL. CINCPAC SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW; IN OUR OPINION IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR LON NOL TO BROADEN BASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND INCREASE NATIONAL UNITY. AMBASSADOR UNGER AGREED, SAYING HE KNOWS NO ONE ON US SIDE WHO WAS SUPPORTING SIRIK MATAK AGAINST LON NOL; US VIEW IS IDENTICAL WITH THAI VIEW, I. E. DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING BROADER BASE OF POPULAR SUPPORT AND IN THIS SIRIK MATAK COULD HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE ADDITION. AMBASSADOR
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ATION IN SUCH

OMINOUS TERMS. POSSIBLY HE IS SIMPLY STRIKING A PROPERLY AGGRESSIVE POSE IN ORDER BE CERTAIN HE RETAINS LEADERSHIP IN DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT OPEC MEETINGS BEGINNING MARCH 16.

3. YET IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE HE SINCERELY THINKS " WAR" BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS MUST RESULT FROM CONSUMER STATES ENGAGING

IN REASONABLE STEPS TO PROTECT AND COORDINATE THEIR INTERESTS AS PRODUCERS HAVE DONE LONG AGO. AT MOST YAMANI MAY BE INTENDING SIMPLY WARN CONSUMING COUNTRIES THEY SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION AND NOT COME FURTHER WITH ORGANIZATION AND IDEAS WHICH MIGHT INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF PRODUCER- CONSUMER CONFRONTATION. IF YAMANI BELIEVES HIS WARNINGS HAVE NOT YET BEEN HEARD OR UNDERSTOOD, WE MAY HAVE TO EXPECT SOME FURTHER DECLARATIONS OF THIS KIND AT CLOSE OF FORTHCOMING OPEC GATHERING. YAMANI' S INTEREST WILL CERTAINLY BE HEIGHTENED BY INEVITABLE KNOWLEDGE OF US- EC MEETINGS.

4. WE MIGHT EVEN ASSUME THAT YAMANI, BY HIS STATEMENTS, IS ASKING HAVE MATTER EXPLAINED TO HIM. ACCORDINGLY, SUGGEST, IF POSSIBLE, THAT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY WE BE GIVEN SOME REASSURING RATIONALE TO MEET HIS MISGIVINGS (AND PERHAPS DISCOURAGE HIM FROM FURTHER AGITATION OF THIS TOPIC). PRESUMABLY THERE ARE REASSURING ASPECTS TO SYSTEM OF CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS SO THAT WE COULD SUGGEST TO YAMANI THAT SUCH STEPS AS IMPROVED PIPELINE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CONSUMERS IN EUROPE, SOME AUGMENTATION OF RESERVES AGAINST CONTINGENCIES, AND OTHER SIMILAR STEPS ARE REASONABLE AND NOT AIMED AT PRODUCERS. MOST REASSURING ASSERTION OF ALL WOULD BE TO STATE THAT CONSUMER COUNTRIES HAVE NO INTENTION COMBINING CONDUCT CARTEL TYPE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRODUCERS OR COMPANIES TO DETERMINE PRICES.

5. WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN PROVIDE THIS MUCH REASSURING SUBSTANCE IN ANY EXPLANATION TO YAMANI, WE INCLINED THINK SOME EXPLANATION OF FEATURES OF CONSUMER COOPERATION (EVEN IF NOT ENTIRELY TO YAMANI' S TASTE) LESS LIKELY TO HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT THAN WOULD OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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INDEFINITE SILENCE.
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PHNOM PENH
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SECSTATE WASHDC
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